by weight sodium chloride, from about 0.075 to about 0.3 percent by weight [postassium] potassium chloride, from about 0.04 to about 0.33 percent by weight calcium chloride, from about 0.02 to about 0.04 percent by weight magnesium chloride hexahydrate, from about 0.3 to about 0.4 percent by weight sodium acetate, from about 0.15 to about 0.20 percent by weight of a buffer, remainder water.

Please cancel claim 7.

Please amend claims 8-15 as follows:

8. (Amended) [A] The method of claim [7] 16 wherein [the] said polymer[s or copolymers are] is present in an amount between about 2 to about 5 percent by weight of [the pharmaceutical composition] said viscoelastic gel.

9. (Amended) [A] The method of claim [7] 16 wherein [the] said polymer[s or copolymers are] is present in an amount between about 3.5 to about 4.5 percent by weight of [the pharmaceutical composition] said viscoelastic gel.

10. (Amended) [A] The method of claim [7] 16 wherein [the] said polymer[s or copolymers are] is present in an amount between about 4.5 to about 5.5 percent by weight of [the pharmaceutical composition] said viscoelastic

gel.

11. (Amended) [A] The method of claim [7] 16 wherein [the] said polymer[s or copolymers are] is present in an amount of about 4 percent by weight of [the pharmaceutical composition] said viscoelastic gel.

12. (Amended) [A] The method of claim [7] 16 wherein said polymer is polyacrylamide.

13. (Amended) [A] The method of claim [7] 16 wherein [the pharmaceutical composition] said viscoelastic gel comprises

(a) 2 to 5 percent by weight [acrylamide or methacrylamide polymers or copolymers] of said polymer;

(b) 0.4 to 8.6 percent by weight sodium chloride;

(c) 0.075 to 0.3 percent by weight potassium chloride;

(d) 0.04 to 0.33 percent by weight calcium chloride;

(e) 0.02 to 0.04 percent by weight magnesium chloride hexahydrate;

(f) 0.3 to 0.4 percent by weight

sodium acetate;

(g) 0.15 to 0.20 percent by weight buffering agent; and

(h) remainder water.

14. (Amended) [A] The method of claim 13, wherein said buffering agent is sodium citrate dihydrate.

15. (Amended) [A] The method of claim [7] 16 wherein [the pharmaceutical composition] said viscoelastic gel [comprises] consists essentially of about 4 percent by weight of said polymer having a molecular weight of about 5 million, about 0.49 percent by weight sodium chloride, about 0.075 percent by weight potassium chloride, about 0.048 percent by weight calcium, about 0.03 percent by weight magnesium chloride hexahydrate, about [0.03] 0.17 percent by weight sodium citrate dihydrate, remainder water.

Please add new claims 15-18 as follows:

--16. A method for protecting ocular tissue during ophthalmic surgery which comprises

injecting into an ocular chamber prior to said surgery an amount of viscoelastic gel sufficient to prevent mechanical damage and denudation of said ocular tissue during said surgery, said viscoelastic gel

comprising a polymer selected from polyacrylamide, polymethacrylamide and a copolymer of acrylamide and methacrylamide, said polymer having a molecular weight of from about 1 to about 6 million, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent therefor.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein said surgical procedure is an anterior segment surgical procedure.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein said anterior segment surgical procedure is cataract removal, corneal transplant, keratoplasty or bullous rhegmatogenous retinal detachment.--

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The reissue declaration filed with the application has been held by the Examiner to be defective in failing to particularly specify the errors relied upon, the Examiner relying upon 37 CFR 1.175(a)(5).

While a number of errors exist in the patent for which reissue is sought, Applicants have filed the present reissue application under the provisions of 37 CFR 251 and 37 CFR 1.175(3).

With regard to the basis for effecting reissues, 37 CFR 251 states: